GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3063
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
IMPORT OF RAW STONES FROM MINING COUNTRIES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;SUDHA YADAV

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the world`s largest exporter of polished gems;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to source raw stones directly from mining countries in a drive to boost margins;

(c) if so, whether the Government have issued instructions of allowing Jewellery Export Promotion Council to get raw material directly from the mining countries;

(d) if so, whether miners in Africa, Russia and Canada have been approached to send supplies to India; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the agreements in this regard have been reached with these countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (e) : India is the world`s largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds. The Government are encouraging the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council in their efforts to procure rough diamond supplies directly from the diamond miningcountries like Russia, Canada, etc. A Protocol of Intentions has been signed between the Government of India and Government of Russia for co-operation between the two countries in the area of diamonds including the direct supply of rough diamonds from Russia to India. No agreement has yet been reached with any other diamond mining country or any gemstone mining country for the direct supply of rough diamonds or other gemstones to India.